

Management and Budget has not found it to be a major rule as defined in the Congressional Review Act.

#### IV. Backfitting, Forward Fitting, and Issue Finality

Issuance of RG 1.152, Revision 4, does not constitute backfitting as defined in § 50.109 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), “Backfitting,” and as described in NRC Management Directive (MD) 8.4, “Management of Backfitting, Forward Fitting, Issue Finality, and Information Requests”; affect the issue finality of an approval issued under 10 CFR part 52; or constitute forward fitting as defined in MD 8.4 because, as explained in this RG, licensees are not required to comply with the positions set forth in this RG.

#### V. Submitting Suggestions for Improvement of Regulatory Guides

A member of the public may, at any time, submit suggestions to the NRC for improvement of existing RGs or for the development of new RGs. Suggestions can be submitted on the NRC’s public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/contactus.html>. Suggestions will be considered in future updates and enhancements to the “Regulatory Guide” series.

Dated: July 19, 2023.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Meraj Rahimi,**

Chief, Regulatory Guide and Programs Management Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### 10 CFR Parts 51, 52, and 100

[NRC–2021–0091]

#### Regulatory Guide: Use of Plant Parameter Envelope in Early Site Permit Applications for Nuclear Power Plants

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Final guide; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing a new Regulatory Guide (RG) 4.27, “Use of Plant Parameter Envelope in Early Site Permit Applications for Nuclear Power Plants.” This RG provides guidance for nuclear power plant applicants that elect to use the plant parameter envelope concept to assume certain design parameters for an early site

permit application when a specific reactor technology has not been selected for a proposed site.

**DATES:** Revision 0 of RG 4.27 is available on July 25, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2021–0091 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2021–0091. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301–415–0624; email: [Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov](mailto:Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individuals listed in the “For Further Information Contact” section of this document.

- *NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov). The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document.

- *NRC’s PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov) or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

RG 4.27 and the regulatory analysis may be found in ADAMS under Accession Nos. ML23010A097 and ML21049A182, respectively.

Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and NRC approval is not required to reproduce them.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edward O’Donnell, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone: 301–415–3317; email: [Edward.ODonnell@nrc.gov](mailto:Edward.ODonnell@nrc.gov), and Allen Fetter, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, telephone: 301–415–8556; email: [Allen.Fetter@nrc.gov](mailto:Allen.Fetter@nrc.gov). Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Discussion

The NRC is issuing a new guide in the NRC’s “Regulatory Guide” series. This series was developed to describe methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the agency’s regulations, to explain techniques that the staff uses in evaluating specific issues or postulated events, and to describe information that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

RG 4.27 was issued with a temporary identification of Draft Regulatory Guide, DG–4029 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21049A181).

#### II. Additional Information

The NRC published a notice of the availability of DG–4029 in the **Federal Register** on June 24, 2021 (86 FR 33384) for a 45-day public comment period. The public comment period closed on August 9, 2021. Public comments on DG–4029 and the staff responses to the public comments are available under ADAMS under Accession No. ML23010A111.

As noted in the **Federal Register** on December 9, 2022 (87 FR 75671), this document is being published in the “Rules” section of the **Federal Register** to comply with publication requirements under 1 CFR chapter I.

#### III. Congressional Review Act

This RG is not a rule as defined in the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801–808).

#### IV. Backfitting, Forward Fitting, and Issue Finality

Issuance of RG 4.27 would not constitute backfitting as that term is defined in section 50.109 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), “Backfitting,” and as described in NRC Management Directive (MD) 8.4, “Management of Backfitting, Forward Fitting, Issue Finality, and Information Requests”; constitute forward fitting as that term is defined and described in MD 8.4; or affect issue finality of any approval issued under 10 CFR part 52, “Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants.” As explained in RG 4.27, applicants and licensees are not required to comply with the positions set forth in RG 4.27.

#### V. Submitting Suggestions for Improvement of Regulatory Guides

A member of the public may, at any time, submit suggestions to the NRC for improvement of existing RGs or for the development of new RGs. Suggestions can be submitted on the NRC’s public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/>

*contactus.html*. Suggestions will be considered in future updates and enhancements to the “Regulatory Guide” series.

Dated: July 20, 2023.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Meraj Rahimi,**

*Chief, Regulatory Guide and Programs Management Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. FAA–2023–0939; Project Identifier MCAI–2022–00743–E; Amendment 39–22513; AD 2023–15–01]

**RIN 2120–AA64**

**Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. Engines**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. (P&WC) Model PW307D engines. This AD is prompted by a root cause analysis of an event involving an uncontained failure of a high-pressure turbine (HPT) 1st-stage disk, on an International Aero Engines AG (IAE) Model V2533–A5 engine, that resulted in high-energy debris penetrating the engine cowling and an aborted takeoff. This AD requires removing certain HPT 2nd-stage disks from service and also prohibits installation of certain HPT 2nd-stage disks on any affected engine. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD is effective August 29, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:**

*AD Docket:* You may examine the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket

No.FAA–2023–0939; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Barbara Caufield, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (781) 238–7146; email: *barbara.caufield@faa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all P&WC Model PW307D engines. The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on May 11, 2023 (88 FR 30264). The NPRM was prompted by Transport Canada AD CF–2022–31, dated June 9, 2022, issued by Transport Canada, which is the aviation authority for Canada (referred to after this as the MCAI). The MCAI states that on March 18, 2020, an Airbus Model A321–231 airplane, powered by IAE Model V2533–A5 engines, experienced an uncontained HPT 1st-stage disk failure that resulted in an aborted takeoff and high-energy debris penetrating the engine cowling. In response to the March 2020 uncontained HPT 1st-stage disk failure, the FAA issued a series of ADs, including Emergency AD 2020–07–51, Amendment 39–21110 (85 FR 20402, April 13, 2020) (AD 2020–07–51). Since the FAA issued AD 2020–07–51, IAE determined that the failure of the V2533–A5 engine was due to an undetected subsurface material defect in the HPT 1st-stage disk that may affect the life of the part. In coordination with IAE, P&WC performed a records review and analysis of PW307A and PW307D

engine parts made of similar material and identified two additional affected HPT 2nd-stage disks (S/Ns A004D8X1 and A004E9K3), installed on PW307D engines. These two additional HPT 2nd-stage disks may have a material defect which could reduce the life of the part. As such, the affected HPT 2nd-stage disks must be removed from service.

In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require removing certain part-numbered HPT 2nd-stage disks from service and proposed to prohibit the installation of these HPT 2nd-stage disks onto any engine. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2023–0939.

**Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive**

**Comments**

The FAA received no comments on the NPRM or on the determination of the costs.

**Conclusion**

These products have been approved by the aviation authority of another country and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA’s bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, it has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA reviewed the relevant data and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products. Except for minor editorial changes, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

**Costs of Compliance**

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 2 engines installed on airplanes of U.S. Registry.

The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

**ESTIMATED COSTS**

| Action                           | Labor cost                                  | Parts cost | Cost per product | Cost on U.S. operators |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Replace HPT 2nd-stage disk ..... | 10 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$850 ..... | \$176,000  | \$176,850        | \$353,700              |

**Authority for This Rulemaking**

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA’s authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of

the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency’s authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA